



Town of Acton Recreation Commission

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NOV 17 2011

MINUTES
DATE: JUNE 7, 2011

7:00 PM

ROOM 126, ACTON TOWN HALL

ATTENDEES

Recreation Commission members present were Ms. Karen Jarsky, Chairman, Ms. Betsy Mercier, Commissioner, Ms. Bridget McKeever-Matz, Commissioner, Mr. John Sonner, Selectman, Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director, and Mr. Stephen Leo, Recreation Commissioner-Elect.

AGENDA TOPICS

Meeting called to order at: 7:00 PM

Citizens Concerns: Ms. Jarsky posed an inquiry about the WAVE project in West Acton. After the project is implemented, what will the impact be on access to the Gardener playground, particularly crossing to the Gardener Playground across Route 111 and parking? Ms. Fochtman noted that the original plan for the project was to enhance safety and pedestrian friendliness to the park via traffic calming and improved parking. Ms. Fochtman will investigate.

CONSENT AGENDA

DISCUSSION March 2011 minutes

ACTION ITEM March 2011 minutes were accepted as amended, 3-0

TOPIC: RECREATION VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

DISCUSSION Proposal was made by Ms. Fochtman to honor Mr. Richard Usherwood, a longtime theater volunteer. Vote to accept recommendation: 3:0.

ACTION ITEM Mr. Usherwood will be awarded a plaque at the Town's Independence Day celebration at NARA Park.

TOPIC: RECREATION EVENTS/OPERATIONS

DISCUSSION Reviewed content of Summer Newsletter. Current enrollment of Camp is comparable with last year. Beach enrollments are comparable with last year. Events – new ticketed concerts, Bluegrass and Kashmir. Free Summer Concert series on Thursdays with two classical concerts.

ACTION ITEM None.

TOPIC: GOWARD FUNDING

DISCUSSION Friends of the Park Board appeared before the Board of Selectmen on June 6 to seek approval for posting fundraising signage at Goward Playground. Mr. Leo, a member of the Friends, reported that they are collecting ideas for fundraising vehicles to implement. He received helpful fundraising information from the 9/11 committee. Ms. Fochtman discussed outreach that Ms. Jana Cataldo has done over the past six months to collect information on how other Towns have funded their playgrounds.

ACTION ITEM Ms. Fochtman asked Mr. Leo to provide a written piece on the fundraiser to include in the Recreation E-News this week.

REPORTS:

a) Elm Street Update –AASL requested a number of improvements to the softball field, which Ms. Fochtman will investigate including: a new storage shed, resetting the backstop fences to eliminate the gaps allowing ground balls through, installation of new permalines along the sidelines and lowering the height of the bench.

b) Morrison Farm Update - Community Gardens – A quote from the Water District is pending to create a separate water input from the street, instead of through the house water system.

DISCUSSION **c) CPC** – Ms. Mercier reported that she had submitted an update to the CPC annual report, with input from Ms. Fochtman.

d) School Street - Multi-Year lease agreement still outstanding.

e) Playground Update – Ms. Fochtman has begun a program of documenting quarterly playground safety assessments to submit to the Town insurer for credit.

f) Open Space & Recreation Plan – Ms. Fochtman has not advanced the rewrite of the Recreation portions of the plan. Once the NARA Beach and Camp are underway in late June, she will turn back to working on this and will try to have an update at the July Recreation Commission meeting.

g) NARA Park Pavilion Update – Ms. Fochtman will be paying Kang Associates for the final blueprints of the pavilion design, including a cost estimate to construct it. The CPC decided to allow the 2008 CPC funding of the pavilion to lapse, with the suggestion that it be reapplied for in the future.

h) Recreation Operations Peak Software - Recreation renewed its annual license with Peak software. It has provided online registration capabilities for our patrons. There have been some issues: printing beach passes, certain types of reporting have not been available.

New Business/Discussion: There is a proposal to construct two artificial turf fields and associated parking at the High School fields adjacent to the T.J. O'Grady Skatepark. It involves running an active driveway to access the new field parking through the Skatepark to Hayward Rd. The Commission has safety concerns about an active driveway cutting through the current skatepark parking lot. Ms. Fochtman and Mr. Tom Tidman are considering proposals to make this change "livable" from our perspective. The Recreation Department will solicit feedback from the skatepark users to incorporate in this proposal.

MEETING ADJOURNED TIME: 8:25 PM

**Supporting and referenced documentation relating to these minutes are available on the DocuShare site;*